



NEWS RELEASE

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Candle Causes Fire in Beaverton Apartment

A TVF&R investigator has determined that an unattended candle caused a fire in an apartment this afternoon. Firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and Hillsboro Fire and Rescue extinguished the fire at 17610 NW Cornell Road after an apartment manager at the Birch Pointe Apartments called 9-1-1 reporting seeing flames inside a unit. No-one was injured.

A quick response by firefighters prevented the fire from becoming more serious. Fires in structures similar to the 3 story apartment complex can spread to neighboring units quickly and be dangerous to fight. The TVF&R investigator also discovered that someone had removed the battery in the apartment's smoke alarm.

"Candles should never be left unattended," says TVF&R Public Information Officer Brian Barker, "candles were involved in two fatal fires in TVF&R's service area last year alone. Combine the danger of an unattended candle and a smoke alarm that's been disabled, and you have a recipe for disaster. We're glad no-one was hurt."

According to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, in the five-year period from 2004 through 2008, there were 584 candle-related fires in Oregon resulting in 14 civilian deaths, 71 civilian injuries, 22 firefighter injuries and estimated property losses of nearly \$16 million.

TVF&R suggests these safety tips for using candles.

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from combustibles such as clothing, curtains, decorations, holiday trees, or paper.
- Use candle holders that won't tip over easily, can catch dripping wax, and are made of materials that won't burn.